

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1- 8. (cancelled)

1           9. (new) A continuous-casting apparatus comprising:

2           a heating vessel holding a mass of molten metal having a  
3 surface level. the vessel being provided below the level with a  
4 casting nozzle;

5           a traveling mold having a pair of sides defining a  
6 downwardly extending passage having an upper end;

7           an immersion tube extending from the casting nozzle down  
8 into the passage through the upper passage end and having an outer  
9 lower end below the upper end of the passage; and

10          means for flowing the molten metal from the vessel  
11 through the nozzle and through the tube into the passage for  
12 filling the passage with the metal to a level above the outer lower  
13 end of the immersion tube.

1           10. (new) The continuous-casting apparatus defined in  
2 claim 9 wherein the mold sides are formed by upper and lower belts.

1           11. (new) The continuous-casting apparatus defined in  
2 claim 9 wherein the passage is inclined at an angle between 3° and  
3 45° to the horizontal.

1           12. (new) The continuous-casting apparatus defined in  
2 claim 9 wherein the sides are spaced by more than 20 mm.

1           13. (new) The continuous-casting apparatus defined in  
2 claim 9 wherein the means includes means for pressurizing the  
3 vessel above the mass of metal.

1           14. (new) The continuous-casting apparatus defined in  
2 claim 9 wherein the tube is longitudinally shiftable.

1           15. (new) The continuous-casting apparatus defined in  
2 claim 14 wherein the tube s fixed to the furnace and the furnace  
3 and tube are jointly shiftable relative to the mold.